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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Docket Number: A01449 :  
KRJ :  
In re application of: :  
Lifeng Zhang :  
Serial No.: 10/677,436 : Group Art Unit: 1623  
Filed: October 2, 2003 : Examiner: Not Assigned  
For: Method for Improving Viscosity of Thickeners for Aqueous Systems

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this Preliminary Amendment.